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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Putin of Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: President Putin

Interpreter: Peter Afanassenko

Notetakers: Susan Brockhaus, Julie
Brotherton, Maureen Shannon

DATE, TIME: June 5, 2006, 7:39 - 7:58 a.m. EDT

AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hey Vladimir, how are you? (U)

President Putin: I am fine George, just fine. How are you? (U)

The President: I am doing fine, thank you. Thanks for taking my call. I am better for talking to you. (U)

President Putin: That is great. Thank you. (U)

The President: Listen, a couple of things. First of all, I want to let you know how concerned I am about the kidnapping that took place. I express my heartfelt sympathy for the loss of life and our folks will cooperate as much as possible to bring the other four back. (U)

President Putin: Thank you. (U)

The President: Yes. Anything we can do to help, we will. Secondly, this is about the upcoming G-8. One of the things I think we need to do is make sure we focus on success, and there are four areas where we can work together. One is the pandemic, the potential bird flu, and I want to thank you very much. We have an international initiative to work together so it looks like there is international consensus on the bird flu. Secondly, on Iran, thank you very much for close cooperation on Iran. I do believe we need a solid statement coming out of the G-8 on Iran, one that is rational and reasonable, that will help make the G-8 a success. Third, I think we can get a statement on Darfur which

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Americans and Russians both will want to see. Finally, the Global Initiative on nuclear terrorism, a bilateral agreement we can convert to an international agreement. The reason I called is to continue to strategize with you going into the G-8 on what to concentrate on and say to the world that these are things we can agree on. (S)

President Putin: First of all, thank you for your call. I am glad to hear your voice. For the G-8 Summit, in general, I totally agree, especially taking into account that on a number of issues, our experts are working together very closely. We are almost exactly parallel on the safe nuclear energy development. Prior to the G-8, for example, if you do not mind, during our preliminary meeting at the Summit we can issue a joint statement at the Summit. Regarding Iran, we have begun our work in this new format and this has produced results. This new format is developing very nicely, and thus it might be a success, particularly since we have at least managed to find common positions and common approaches and I suppose that the negotiations with Iran will be a success. I suppose we have to wait for the end of Solana's trip, which I think is tomorrow, and then we will look forward to the outcome of his work. We are generally satisfied with the package of actions in place on the agreed non-use of force. George, I would like to use this opportunity to thank you very much for pushing ahead on Russia's entry into the WTO. We only have a few more moves that we have to make and we then will be finished with the negotiations. When we do that in a package as a comprehensive approach there are just two or three issues that need to be agreed on. On separate issues, we can continue the discussion in a bilateral format. Mr. Lavrov just returned from his business trip to London, and when he came to meet with me, he had problems with his cheeks and lips being swollen. (S)

The President: Wait a minute. (U)

President Putin: We might need to take a closer look at what Condi did to him. (U)

The President: Condi is not blind. (U)

President Putin: And she is a very attractive lady. (U)

The President: She is a wonderful lady. (U)

President Putin: So George, being serious, I would like to go back to what you began with. I would like to thank you for your condolences, for our citizen, our national, who was killed in Baghdad. We hope to get your help and cooperation in order to free the remaining four. (S)

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The President: Absolutely. Listen Vladimir, I would like to get this WTO stuff done in the next couple of weeks before we get to St. Petersburg. (S)

President Putin: Yes, that would be good. (U)

The President: I think the only area is on agriculture and that is always the most difficult. (S)

President Putin: Without getting into details, what your specialists are doing is coordinating with internal American legislation and not WTO legislation. And regarding the most important issue, which is meat, according to Russian legislation, if meat does not undergo special processing, special checks apply not only to foreign meat but also to domestic meat. Since it concerns the security of the population, it would be impossible taking into account the volume of trade, but I hope that we will be able to conclude the process before we get to the G-8 in St. Petersburg. (S)

The President: That is what we need to do. I will keep pushing on my end. (U)

President Putin: Thank you. And concerning my meeting with Ahmadi-Nejad in Shanghai, China, if such a meeting takes place I will give you a call and inform you on the outcome of the meeting. It will be most interesting because by that time they will have time to analyze the proposals they have received from London. (S)

The President: I know. I look forward to hearing from you. (U)

President Putin: And have no doubt we will stick to the position we have elaborated jointly. (S)

The President: That would be great. I think once they figure out we are serious with the United States and Russia working together with the EU-3, they will want to figure out a way to resolve the issue. I have always thought your proposal was something they should have accepted early on. Now that they are seeing there is a united effort, they will probably come back to the proposal and say fine, we will get our nuclear supply from Russia and have the fuel collected. (S)

President Putin: You can be sure that we will not give them any outs or any chance to make maneuvers or skip in the negotiation process. You can be sure of that. (S)

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(The President: Well that is great. Thank you for taking my phone call. (U)

President Putin: Soon I will give you a call. (U)

The President: My best, thank you. (U)

President Putin: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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